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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/973,031	10/09/2001	Dale F. McIntyre	83194F-P	5074

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EXAMINER

HENDERSON, MARK T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3722

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/973,031	Applicant(s) MCINTYRE ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark T Henderson	Art Unit 3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 32 and 33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 32 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 October 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Faxing of Responses to Office Actions

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, TC 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (703)872-9302 (Official) and (703)872-9303 (for After Finals). This practice may be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into TC 3700 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

1. In view of the appeal brief filed on May 24, 2004, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection has been set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

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If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show a ply layer not having any images thereon, however the images (30 and 32) are now printed on the insert alone as described in the specification (page 7, lines 15-17). Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it

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pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 33, which is dependent on Claim 1, discloses wherein the insert further “includes a low resolution or intensity image copy of the original image provided on the first or second ply layer.” However, on page 7, lines 15-17 of the specification, the applicant clearly states that “the images 30, 32 (not a copy) are printed on insert 24' of a low color saturation (intensity) such that the information/data can be easily read by the viewer.” This disclosure reveals that the images are not printed on the ply layers, but have been printed on the insert along with the related information indicia. Therefore, the limitations of claim 1 along with dependent claim 33 have not been disclosed in the specification or drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-6, 12, 32, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fountain.

Fountain discloses an image product assembly comprising a dual sided album leaf having a first ply (14) and a second ply (15) having an outer surface and an inner surface; the plies are secured together so as to form a pocket (20); wherein the outer surface of the first or second ply has at least one image or images (photo seen in Fig. 1); an insert (10) having a size and configuration so that it can be placed within the pocket and also wherein the insert has information ("BIOGRAPHY") relating to the image; wherein the information is located in a position such that it can be readily identified (the information can be identified when tab (12) is pulled upon by the end user) with respect to the associated image; and wherein the insert is provided with a retaining member or restraining tabs (11) designed to be stopped by a retaining section (17).

However, Fountain does not disclose: wherein the outer surface of the first or second ply has a plurality of images formed; wherein the information also includes a copy of the associated image at a low resolution or intensity; wherein the outer surfaces of the either the first ply or second ply has a plurality of images, and wherein the information on the insert is located such that it can be readily identified with respect to which of the plurality of images it is associated.

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In regards to **Claim 1**, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include as many images as desired, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. Therefore, it would be obvious to modify the Fountain leaf to include as many images as desired by the end user to show additional information.

In regards to **Claim 3 and 32**, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place any type of imaged indicia or information indicia on the plies' outer surface and on the restrained insert, since it would only depend on the intended use of the assembly and the desired information to be displayed. Further, it has been held that when the claimed printed matter (information) is not functionally related to the substrate it will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. The fact that the content (a size provision and second image) of the printed matter placed on the (insert and ply) substrate may render the more convenient by providing an individual with a specific type of form does not alter the functional relationship. Mere support by the substrate (insert and plies) for the printed matter (image and information) is not the kind of functional relationship necessary for patentability. Thus, there is no novel an unobvious functional relationship between the printed matter and the substrate which is required for patentability.

Furthermore in regards to **Claim 3**, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to construct an image in any desired size, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the

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level of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, the indicia information placed on the insert can be of any desirable size, since applicant has not disclosed why it would be critical to have particular sized indicia dimensions and image copies on the insert.

In regards to **Claim 4**, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place the image on any desirable ply outer surface(s), since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. Therefore, the image can be displayed on any desirable ply surface to increase the inserts display representation of what the end user wants to display.

In regards to **Claim 12**, the method of forming the first and second ply layers by folding a single sheet does not structurally limit the claim. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior art was made by a different process (see MPEP 2113). Therefore, it would be obvious to form the first and second ply layer by any method desired by the end user.

5. Claims 7, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fountain in view of Young (6,061,938).

Fountain discloses an image product assembly comprising all the elements as set forth in Claim 1, and as set forth above. However, Fountain does not disclose: wherein the insert is folded such that when it is placed in the pocket, it is retained.

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Young discloses in Fig. 4, an assembly comprising a slidable foldable insert (32), wherein when it is placed in a pocket (as seen in Fig. 1-3) it is retained.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Fountain's to include a foldable insert as taught by Young for the purpose of holding and securing additional indicia.

6. Claims 8-11, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fountain in view of Hawley (3,848,348).

Fountain discloses an image product assembly comprising all the elements as set forth in Claim 1, and as set forth above. However, Fountain does not disclose: wherein the first and second ply layers are adhesively secured along three sides of four sides, wherein the adhesive is placed on two surfaces of a spacer, which is then placed between the ply layers.

Hawley discloses an image assembly comprising a spacer (6) having adhesive on both of its surfaces and placed between ply layers (4 and 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Fountain's image assembly to include an adhesively placed spacer as taught by Hawley for the purpose of connecting the plies and forming a pocket for the insert.

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Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art References

The prior art references listed in the attached PTO-892, but not used in a rejection of the claims, are cited for (their/its) structure. Kruegle, Nelson et al, Aitkens et al, and Sax disclose similar imaged leaves having inserts with images.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed on June 16, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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In response to applicant's argument that the Fountain prior art reference does not disclose a plurality of images and no suggestion to how the data can be associated with images, the examiner submits that the Fountain reference is cited for disclosing an image placed on an insert, wherein the insert further discloses information correlated to the image. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include as many images and as much information as desired, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. Therefore, it would be obvious to modify the Fountain leaf to include as many images as desired by the end user to show additional displayed indicia (whether it is one photograph having a plurality of images (such as a group), or two separate photographic images.

It also would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place any type of information on the insert, since it would only depend on the intended use of the assembly and the desired information to be displayed. Further, it has been held that when the claimed printed matter (information) is not functionally related to the substrate (in this case the insert is the substrate, not the images placed on the substrate) it will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. *In re Gulack* 217 USPQ 401, (CAFC 1983). The fact that the content (a size provision) of the printed matter placed on the substrate may render the device more convenient by providing an individual with a specific type of informative background document does not alter the functional relationship. Mere support for the printed matter (image size dimension) is not the kind of functional relationship necessary for

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patentability. Thus, there is no novel and unobvious functional relationship between the printed matter and the substrate which is required for patentability. Further, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to form the information in any desirable, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Therefore, the indicia information placed on the insert can be of any desirable size, since applicant has not disclosed why it would be critical to have particular sized indicia dimensions.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark T. Henderson whose telephone number is (703)305-0189. The examiner can be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner supervisor, A. L. Wellington, can be reached on (703) 308-2159. The fax number for TC 3700 is (703)-872-9302. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 3700 receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.



MTH

August 16, 2004



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